I am writing as a licensed amateur radio operator to share my views on potential changes to FCC policies regarding the Amateur Radio Service.

I strongly support maintaining the current band allocations in line with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) band plan. This framework effectively manages the spectrum and promotes cooperation among operators. Licensing should also remain a requirement for operating on amateur frequencies. It ensures a basic understanding of radio theory, regulations, and best practices—critical for maintaining order on the airwaves and preventing harmful interference.

That said, I believe it is time to re-evaluate the structure of the current licensing system. In 2025, the reality is that any licensed (or unlicensed) operator can readily purchase off-the-shelf equipment capable of accessing the entire amateur spectrum. We live in a time when the technical barriers to building and operating radios have largely been overcome by accessible, commercially available equipment. Yet under the current multi-tiered license scheme, an operator can possess the proper knowledge, the technical skills, and even the right equipment to access a particular frequency—but if they don't hold the correct piece of paper, they're prohibited from using it. This is, quite frankly, absurd.

Even more concerning is the fact that the process to obtain these licenses is, in many cases, little more than rote memorization of information. The question pools and answers are readily available online, and many prospective operators simply memorize the answers without ever gaining meaningful understanding. To call this "training" is, in my opinion, laughable. In the modern era, with nearly limitless learning resources available at one's fingertips, genuine learning comes through experience and mentorship, not through memorizing test answers. The current system doesn't guarantee competence; it's a bureaucratic obstacle that adds no practical value.

For these reasons, I propose moving towards a single, comprehensive license structure. One license, built on a reasonable testing process, would grant full access to the entirety of the amateur bands. This change would simplify the licensing process, lower unnecessary barriers to entry, and reflect the realities of amateur radio today. It would also encourage broader participation while still ensuring that operators possess the essential knowledge to use the spectrum responsibly.

In conclusion, I urge the Commission to carefully consider these points as it explores potential reforms. I support maintaining the established ARRL band plan and requiring licensing to safeguard the airwaves. At the same time, I believe a unified license structure better serves today's amateur radio community. Removing outdated obstacles and foster growth, maintaining standards, and making amateur radio more accessible and relevant in the modern era all while still upholding the standards that protect and enrich our service.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my comments.